
CPI Newsletter – January 2020

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2019-20 CPI roster: Chair — Darren DePoy, *Science* • Vice Chair — Stephen Maren, *Liberal Arts* • Past Chair — David Threadgill, *Medicine* • *AgriLife Extension* — Craig Carpenter, Jamie Rae Walker • *AgriLife Research* — Michael Brewer, Ambika Chandra, Lee Tarpley • *Architecture* — Ergun Akleman • *Bush School* — Kent Portney • *COALS* — Russell Cross, Kerri Gehring, Wes Osburn, Jean-Phillipe 'JP' Pellois, Elizabeth 'Betsy' Pierson, David Stelly, Aaron Tarone • *Education* — Timothy Elliott, Rafael Lara-Alecio • *Engineering* — Jorge Alvarado, Debjyoti Banerjee, Ulisses Braga-Neto, Akhilesh Gaharwar, Melissa Grunlan, Sheng-Jen 'Tony' Hsieh, James Kaihatu, Scott Socolofsky, Ramesh Talreja • *Geosciences* — Jessica Fitzsimmons, Ethan Grossman, Brendan Roark • *Law* — Gabriel Eckstein • *Liberal Arts* — Sandra Braman, Harland Prechel • *Mays* — Korok Ray • *Medicine* — Helene Andrews-Polymenis, Kayla Bayless, Carl Gregory • *Nursing* — Nancy Downing • *Pharmacy* — Jayshree Mishra • *Science* — Michael Hall, Christian Hilty, Alexei Safonov, Frank Sottile • *SPH* — Gang Han • *TAMU at Galveston* — R.J. David Wells • *TAMCD* — Hongjiao Ouyang • *TAMU at Qatar* — Othmane Bouhali • *TEES* — Dean Schneider • *TTI* — David Bierling, James Kovar, Dennis Perkinson • *University Libraries* — Bruce Herbert • *Veterinary Medicine* — Candice Brinkmeyer-Langford, Dana Gaddy, Jayanth Ramadoss *The CPI is sponsored annually through funding from Texas A&M University, Texas A&M AgriLife, Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station, and the Texas A&M Transportation Institute*

Update from Dr. Darren Depoy, CPI Chair

January CPI News – Happy New Year! The Council of Principal Investigators Executive Committee (CPI-EC) met with administrators on Wednesday, January 8, 2020. Discussions during the CPI-EC January meeting included topics for the January CPI General Meeting to include a federal update from the TAMU Government Office and to continue on reporting updates on the CPI Whitepapers on what has been completed as well as what is still pending. Subcommittee 2: Enhancing Interdisciplinary Research (IDR) will providing their update at the January 15, 2020 CPI General Meeting.

Further discussions on the summer salary policy that Dr. Barteau and Dr. Fierke presented at CPI. Dr. Barteau indicated that they will be presented to the Faculty Senate like they did at the December CPI meeting and then there will be edits to make prior to a revised copy being redistributed.

SRS communicated that Cayuse has a tentative roll out for early February for NIH proposals. More information will be sent out via CPI distribution as soon as specific dates are set.

CPI Contacts – The complete 2019-2020 roster of CPI Representatives and the new CPI Executive Committee can be found on the CPI website at https://cpi.tamu.edu/membership/2019-2020_Council_Membership. Previous membership lists can be found in the council [archive](#).

The CPI-EC will continue to meet with President Young and Provost Fierke each month in order to keep PIs informed. The CPI-EC will meet with Chancellor Sharp next month. If there are items of concern that impact the research environment, we would like to hear from you. All PIs are encouraged to communicate with their representatives to bring forward items of concern or interest for the research community. Please continue to bring research-related issues (and solutions) to my attention at CPI@tamu.edu.

Reminder: The February CPI General meeting will be back at its normally scheduled date of the second Wednesday, February 12, 2020, Rudder 601, 11:30-1:15pm. The CPI Subcommittee working whitepaper “Improving Core Labs and Resources” will provide updates at the February CPI General Meeting.

CHANGE IN MARCH CPI Meeting Date: Due to the Spring Break schedule – the March CPI General Meeting will be the 3rd Wednesday, March 18, 2020, Rudder 601, 11:30-1:15pm.

Contact Rebecca Luckey, rluckey@tamu.edu or 979.862.9166, for more information or to suggest agenda items for our monthly meetings.

Travel Alert Related to Exporting Research Materials

In light of recent situations involving researchers attempting to export research materials abroad, the Council on Governmental Relations (COGR) recently reminded its members that the FBI and other federal law enforcement agencies have increased their surveillance efforts to identify the transport of research materials and verify that those exports comply with federal laws. These efforts are believed to be part of a nation-wide enforcement action to control the transport of biological materials that may present a threat to our national security, and/or reduce the theft of intellectual property developed in the U.S.

Transporting certain materials may require import/export permits or other documentation from federal agencies, including US Customs and Border Protection (CBP), the FDA, USDA, Fish and Wildlife, and the CDC.

Individuals seeking to transport tangible material (e.g. biological materials, transgenic plants and animals, etc.) should seek guidance from the relevant university office(s) **before** transporting the research material to ensure that appropriate institutional approvals are in place.

For Guidance:

The **Export Controls Office** can provide guidance on international travel safeguards and federal export license requirements. They also publish a number of useful educational tools such as:

- “**Export Control Basics: International Travel**” at <https://vpr.tamu.edu/initiate-research/export-controls/export-controls-basics-for-international-travel>.
- “**Texas A&M University Export Control Shipping Guidelines for Principal Investigators**” at <https://vpr.tamu.edu/initiate-research/export-controls/ShippingGuidelinesFinal101817RevAttachmentA52218.pdf>.
- “**Export Control Basics: Biological Agents and Toxins**” at <https://vpr.tamu.edu/initiate-research/export-controls/biological-agents>.

For activities involving the use of biohazardous materials, including their transport, contact the **Office of Biosafety** at (979) 862-4549 or via email at biosafety@tamu.edu.

The **Environmental Health and Safety Office** can provide guidance on shipping hazardous material. Additional information available at <https://ehs.tamu.edu/programs/hazardous-material-shipping/>.

The transfer of research material may require a Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) before the material may be provided or received. Contact the **Texas A&M Research Administration Office** for guidance at (979) 862-1769 or via email at negotiations@tamu.edu.

Related News:

<https://www.universalhub.com/2019/chinese-cancer-researcher-not-allowed-leave>

<https://www.universalhub.com/2019/chinese-researcher-nabbed-liquid-filled-vials>

Announcing NSF OIG Audit

On October 4th, 2019 the National Science Foundation (NSF) Office of Inspector General (OIG) announced that Texas A&M University will be undergoing an audit of NSF awards to examine expenditures posted to NSF awards for the period of October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2019. The NSF OIG has contracted with the audit firm Cotton & Company to conduct the audit at Texas A&M University.

Why is Texas A&M being audited? The OIG reports that there is not a specific concern that prompted the audit, it is not uncommon for universities to be audited on a rotating schedule. It’s simply just our turn.

What are the auditors examining? The auditors will be looking at expenditures posted on NSF awards during the period of October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2019. The auditors will be investigating details regarding the allowability and allocability of charges posted to NSF awards.

Examples of audit findings at other universities include but are not limited to:

- Untimely cost transfers
- Poorly documented/unsupported expenditures
- Purchases made at or near the end of the award period
- Purchases made after the end of the award period

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- Timeliness and accuracy of effort reporting
 - Travel charges for individuals who are not paid on the award
 - Travel that does not clearly benefit the project
 - Tuition and or fees should be prorated to match the % of appointment for students charged to the project
 - Timeliness and accuracy of technical reports
 - Timeliness and accuracy of financial reports
 - Letter of credit draws
 - Revenue recognition
 - Close out

What does this mean for investigators/staff? Questions to investigators and staff by Cotton & Company will be coordinated through the Sponsored Research Services (SRS) office. As the audit progresses it is possible that a member from SRS may contact investigators or departmental staff to request documentation of expenditures, or additional justification regarding expenditures. It is *critical* to the success of the audit that if investigators or departmental staff receive questions from SRS, that timely and thorough responses are received. SRS will coordinate with the Division of Research (DOR) on formal responses to the contracted audit firm.

What are findings of previous audits? NSF makes findings of previous audits publicly available at: <https://www.nsf.gov/oig/reports/reviews.jsp#external>

This is an appropriate time to remind investigators that the questions and clarifications sometimes made by the departmental staff, SRS or otherwise are to ensure that TAMU is following university and sponsor requirements.

We appreciate support from the Texas A&M research community throughout the audit process. We will provide updates periodically as the audit progresses.

SRS has AnSRS4U - Answers for You

Texas A&M Sponsored Research Services (SRS) is excited to announce that we will be beginning a series of monthly informational sessions. The sessions are titled “**AnSRS4U** - Answers for You”. The goal of the sessions is to provide valuable information to our customers. The sessions will address various research administration topics and issues. Our target audience is the department and college staff that support the research enterprise, but everyone is welcome to attend either in person or via Zoom. The session will be held at SRS, 400 Harvey Mitchell Parkway, Suite 300 in Room 109 from 10:00 to 11:30 am. The first session is February 13, 2020, and will be an overview of SRS. Researchers are encouraged to share this information with their staff. Sign up information for participation either in person or via Zoom will be forthcoming.

SRS Google group – Sponsored Research Services @lists.tamu.edu

Join our Listserv to get updates on **AnSRS4U** presentations and other important research administration news. E-mail Rachel Vaughn at rvaughn@tamu.edu to be added to the group.

Student Research Week: Faculty Judges Needed

Student Research Week (SRW) is a four day research symposium at Texas A&M University, and will take place at the Memorial Student Center on March 16th-20th, 2020. SRW is the largest university-wide student run research symposium in the United States, and has proudly provided students with the opportunity to present research for at no cost for 23 years. Student of all majors attend SRW, and every year, many faculty volunteer as judges for the conference. Faculty judges give critical feedback to students on the content, methodology, and conclusion of students' research. Judges also have the opportunity to build connections with students and recruit potential graduate candidates. **For more information or to register, please visit <https://srw.tamu.edu/>.**

Please see attached flyer at end of the CPI Newsletter.

New Single IRB Requirement for Federally Funded Cooperative Research Goes into Effect January 20, 2020

The 2018 Revised Common Rule requires federally funded studies that involve more than one institution to use a Single IRB when IRB review and approval is required. The effective date of the requirement is January 20, 2020.

Researchers expecting to receive a federal award in the near future for a collaborative research project that requires IRB review should contact the TAMU IRB to develop a plan to address the Single IRB requirement for that study.

All studies requiring Single IRB review will be routed through the TAMU IRB for the processing of institutional requirements prior to any Single IRB ethical review.

The Single IRB requirement applies to federally funded research and all research sites within the United States except when governed by American Indian or Alaskan Native tribal law or when the funding agency determines that the use of a single IRB is not appropriate.

Please contact the IRB at irb@tamu.edu or 979.458.4067 for assistance.

For additional information, see:

<https://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/regulations-and-policy/single-irb-requirement/114b-exception1/index.html>).

Texas A&M University Biosafety Manual Available

The Office of Biosafety is pleased to announce that a Texas A&M University Biosafety Manual is now available online. The Texas A&M Biosafety Manual was developed by the Office of Biosafety to provide information to faculty, staff, and students on how to work safely in the laboratory with biohazards and to maintain compliance with university rules. The TAMU Biosafety Manual can be accessed on the RCB website or directly at the following link <https://rcb.tamu.edu/biohazards/biosafety-manual>. Personnel who work with biohazards, including recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules, are encouraged to utilize this resource. For questions, please contact the Biosafety staff at 979.862.4549 or biosafety@tamu.edu.

NIH Reminder for Fellowship and Career Development Applications

NIH has issued a reminder that ORCID iDs are now required for PD/PIs on individual fellowship and career development (F and K series) applications submitted on or after January 25, 2020. See <https://nexus.od.nih.gov/all/2020/01/06/important-reminders-for-fellowship-and-career-development-applicants/> and NOT-OD-19-109 for more information.

NIH Expansion of Definition of Socio-Economic Disadvantaged Background

NIH recently expanded its definition of a disadvantaged background to enhance biomedical workforce diversity (<https://nexus.od.nih.gov/all/2019/11/26/expanding-nih-definition-of-socio-economic-disadvantaged-to-be-more-inclusive-and-diversify-the-workforce/>).

NIH Resubmission Applications: Advice from Experts

When: **Wednesday, January 22, 2020**; 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Where: HPEB LL46

About: A panel of Texas A&M faculty members who have served as NIH study section reviewers will discuss strategies for preparing effective NIH resubmission applications and address audience questions. Researchers applying to NIH are encouraged to attend. Remote viewing will be available for participants outside the Bryan/College Station area.

Register: By 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 21, 2020, at <https://u.tamu.edu/Jan22panel-resub>.

Contact: Christina Howard, Ph.D., Research Development Officer, RDS
Shannon Eyre, Sr. Administrative Coordinator, RDS

See flyer attached for more information.

NIH Virtual Specific Aims Workshop

When: **February 12 and February 26**; Noon – 1:30 p.m.

Where: Attend virtually via Zoom

About: This series of two meetings will provide participants with an opportunity to edit and refine their NIH Specific Aims section. Prior to the first meeting, participants will receive a written critique of their Aims page from an experienced NIH study section member. During each Zoom meeting, participants will provide and receive peer feedback on their draft and revised Aims pages.

Register: By 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 30, including your draft Specific Aims. Register at <https://u.tamu.edu/Spring2020AimsReg>. To complete registration, please email your draft Specific Aims page to Christina Howard (c-howard@tamu.edu).

Contact: Christina Howard, Ph.D., Research Development Officer, RDS
Shannon Eyre, Sr. Administrative Coordinator, RDS

Explorations: The Texas A&M Undergraduate Journal

Undergraduates

*****Publishing in Explorations does not preclude students from publishing in a professional journal because our journal is designed for articles in a short format meant for a general audience.*****

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- Undergraduates are invited to submit to the journal. The process with a synopsis due **in late-January, early-February**. Team submissions are accepted. If the synopsis is selected to move forward, the student(s) will be invited to submit a full manuscript by mid-March. If selected, undergraduate(s) attend an Author Orientation and are assigned an editing team to work with throughout the remainder of the semester. Before publication, a faculty mentor overseeing the project must sign off on the work. Additional information and approvals, including copyright and media releases, are collected from undergraduate authors between April and May.
 - **Synopses**
 - **Synopsis Deadline:** February 3, 2020 at noon
 - **Synopsis Application Link:**
<http://launch.tamu.edu/Applications/Explorations/Explorations-Synopsis-Submission>
 - **Full Manuscripts**
 - **Full Manuscript Deadline:** March 18, 2020 at noon
 - **Full Manuscript Application Link:** TBA

Faculty

- Faculty can mentor undergraduate researchers and encourage them to apply to the board and/or to submit to the journal. If a student's full manuscript is selected to move forward for publication, the work must be approved by the faculty mentor overseeing the project.
- Faculty can also review for the journal. Reviewer registration is collected on a rolling basis. Submissions are assigned by discipline and expertise. Faculty will be asked to review up to 3 submissions at a time. *****Publishing in Explorations does not preclude students from publishing in a professional journal because our journal is designed for articles in a short format meant for a general audience.*****
- **Volume 12 Review Timeline**
 - **February 7, 2020:** Synopses distributed for review no later than this date
 - **February 19, 2020:** Deadline to return synopsis reviews
 - **March 20, 2020:** Full manuscripts distributed to reviewers no later than this date
 - **April 1, 2020:** Deadline to submit full manuscript reviews
- **Registration Deadline for Volume 12 Synopses:** January 20, 2020
- **Registration Link:** <http://launch.tamu.edu/Applications/Explorations/Faculty-Reviewer-Registration>

Undergraduate Research Scholars (URS)

Faculty Participation at the URS Symposium

- LAUNCH: UGR is seeking faculty to be active listeners.
- Third Annual Undergraduate Research Scholars (URS) Symposium on February 26, 2020 in the MSC. LAUNCH: UGR is offering this new venue for our LAUNCH Undergraduate Research Scholars to present their research projects and get feedback before their final theses are due in April. Presentations at this event will fulfill the program's requirement.
- To help our URS presenters, we ask faculty and staff to focus on the following three areas with students and provide feedback as they interact with the students during their presentations:
 - Body language and delivery
 - Effective communication of the research question and why it is important
 - Effective visual aids (if used)
- Looking for 1 hour commitments on February 26, 2020.
 - **Active Listener Registration Link:**
https://tamu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bC15Z8chz5j6Tm5
 - **Active Listener Registration Deadline:** February 17, 2020
- More information about the URS Symposium can be found at <http://tx.ag/urssymposium>.

REU/SURE Coordination Meeting

- January 30, 2020 from 8:30-10:00 AM in MSC 2406.
- Please RSVP at https://tamu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6D521RfHGo10zIz by January 27, 2020.
- Coffee and pastries will be provided.
- At this meeting, we will discuss updated university policies for summer programs (fee waiver, enrollment, general deposit, student health services, and international students), as well as on-campus housing and summer activities. See attached file Package for CPI for the agenda and most recent handouts.

MaroonBase

MaroonBase (MORE DETAILED VERSION):

MaroonBase is comprised of two components – 1. An online resource guide and 2. The student mobile app. The resource guide is an online platform that can be used by anyone (faculty, staff, students, community members, etc.) to find detailed information on all of the opportunities in the Texas A&M and Bryan/College Station community centered around innovation, creativity, leadership, and entrepreneurship all in one place. Going beyond a traditional directory listing, the resource guide provides valuable information like access, usage criteria, and contact information for a designated expert on the resource.

The student mobile app is a point-based incentive platform to encourage Texas A&M undergrad, grad, and professional students to attend events and use campus resources. Points give the students chances to earn monetary prizes applied to their financial account. The MaroonBase Student app is designed to encourage students to get out of their comfort zone and attend events or use resources that they didn't think they applied to them or their major. For faculty, staff and community members it is an opportunity to increase diversity and attendance for their events and resources. Other TAMU schools will have the opportunity to utilize this platform to help increase and diversify their student engagement.

MaroonBase (CONDENSED VERSION):

The MaroonBase Resource Guide is an online platform that can be used by anyone (faculty, staff, students, community members, etc.) to find detailed information on all of the opportunities in the Texas A&M and Bryan/College Station community centered around innovation, creativity, leadership, and entrepreneurship all in one place. The MaroonBase Student Mobile App encourages students to earn points by attending events and using campus resources to explore all that Texas A&M has to offer. Points give the students chances to earn monetary prizes applied to their financial account. For faculty, staff and community members it is an opportunity to increase diversity and attendance for their events and resources.

Pro Bono Office Hours:

Pro Bono intellectual property office hours are offered as a way for faculty and students to receive advice from attorneys related to IP free of charge. The attorneys have a wide range of experience in areas such as engineering, computer sciences, and biomedical sciences, and have worked with a variety of clients, from individual inventors to large companies and corporations. Each announcement and link for sign up is sent via listserv to all faculty, staff, graduate students, and post docs.

Next Pro Bono office hours session - January 30, 2020 between 10:00 am and 5:00 pm
Office hours are held in Heep Lab Building on main campus (not to be confused with Heep Buildings on west campus)

Sign up link available as of 12/5/19

<https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/70A0F45A8A62EA6F85-january2>

President's Excellence Fund Symposium

Texas A&M's Research Communications is hosting the President's Excellence Fund Symposium at the Texas A&M Hotel and Conference Center on Monday, April 20, 2020. For more information on the President's Excellence Fund, visit: <https://president.tamu.edu/initiatives/>

President's Excellence Fund: X-Grants Round 3 Announcement

X-Grant Update:

Step 2 of the X-Grants Round 3 program is now open. Researchers should be creating or editing their profile, establishing their team, and developing and submitting their one-pager.

president.tamu.edu/xgrants/one-pagers.html

Submission of all information should be done through xgrants.tamu.edu. The [Word template](#) must be used to develop the one-pager. All one-pagers must be submitted by Monday, Feb. 10, 2020, in order to be eligible for review.

Limited Submission Proposal Opportunities

The list of current Limited Submission Proposal (LSP) opportunities, maintained by the Division of Research, is available at <https://vpr.tamu.edu/initiate-research/lsp>. To receive notifications about new LSP opportunities as soon as they are announced you can subscribe to the Division of Research newsletter. [Click here to Subscribe](#) to the Limited Submission newsletter or email Ms. Shelly Martin at shelly.martin@tamu.edu.

Bulletin for Principal Investigators

The Division of Research at Texas A&M University publishes a weekly bulletin about research. The Research Bulletin accepts news items about researchers and their teams from the colleges, schools, campuses and agencies within the Texas A&M research enterprise, including honors, funding, presentations, and appearances in news media. [Click here](#) to subscribe or unsubscribe to the bulletin

Texas A&M University Student Research Week

Howdy!

Student Research Week (SRW) is the largest student run research symposium in the nation and has been a valuable tool in meeting the university's mission of academic, research, and service excellence for the past 20 years.

This four-days competition highlights student research occurring on the Texas A&M campus. In last year, **856 students** participated to present their work through either oral presentation or poster sessions. The event is in need of **industry professionals, faculty, research personnel, and graduate students** to serve as judges for 84 subject areas. Students appreciate the chance to present the depth and breadth of research conducted at the Aggieland and getting critical feedback from judges. Judges have the chance to hear the finalists talk about their research, build relationships with students and recruit potential graduates.

Currently, we are seeking **300** judges from **March 16–March 20**. A gift bag with SRW logo will be served to judges.

There are 9 *categories* including 84 subject area are open to register:

1. Engineering
2. Agriculture & Life Science
3. Science
4. Liberal Art
5. Geoscience
6. Education & Humane Development
7. Veterinary Medicine
8. Business & Public Service
9. Professional Health

For more information and to register as a judge, click the link [here](#)

Thanks & Gig'em,

Xue Gong | Judge Coordinator of Student Research week
PhD Candidate of Department of Biochemistry & Biophysics
300 Olsen Blvd., College Station, TX 77840
Ph: 979-213-2896 | xue.gong-fall_2015@tamu.edu | srw.tamu.edu

Texas A&M University



NIH Resubmission Applications: Advice from Experts

Panel Discussion
Wednesday, January 22, 2020
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
HPEB LL46

Researchers applying to the National Institutes of Health are encouraged to attend.

Strategies for preparing effective resubmission applications will be discussed.

Panelists are Texas A&M faculty who have served as NIH study section reviewers.

Panelists

Jeff Cirillo, Ph.D.

Regents Professor, Microbial
Pathogenesis and Immunology

Robin Fuchs-Young, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Molecular &
Cellular Medicine

D. Samba Reddy, Ph.D., R.Ph

Professor, Department of Neuroscience
and Experimental Therapeutics

Farida Sohrabji, Ph.D.

Professor and Associate Department
Chair, Department of Neuroscience
and Experimental Therapeutics

David Threadgill, Ph.D.

Professor and The Tom and Jean
McMullin Chair of Genetics,
Department of Molecular & Cellular
Medicine

Register by

10:00 a.m. January 21, 2020

<https://u.tamu.edu/Jan22panel-resub>

Remote viewing will be available for participants outside the Bryan/College Station area. Indicate your campus when registering.

Schedule

- Welcome
- Faculty Experts Panel – Facilitated Questions, Open Discussion addressing audience questions.
- Concluding Remarks

Contact

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Shannon Eyre

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